

THE ⁴
GENUINE
SPEECH

Of the Truly Honourable

Adm-----l V-----N,
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TO THE

SEA-OFFICERS,

AT A

COUNCIL of WAR,

JUST BEFORE

The Attack of C-----A.

As communicated by a Person of Honour
then present, in a Letter to his Friend.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. COOPER at the *Globe*, in
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STEPHEN

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THE
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&c.

GENTLEMEN,

TALKING is not my Talent;
and I have sometimes given
more Displeasure by my Zeal,
than I have received Thanks
for my good Intentions: But, as we are
on the point of a hazardous Undertaking,
which, in a great measure, may deter-
mine the Event of the War, I am willing

to lay before you every Consideration, that can influence you to act up to the Example of the bravest of our Forefathers.

Cast your Eyes back then, (to say nothing of the Siege of *Gibraltar*) on the Transactions of the Year 1728. and you will find, that, so long ago, Complaints against this insolent and perfidious People, were exhibited in Form, at the Bar of the House of Commons, by the *Italian, Spanish, and West-India* Merchants; in whose Favour Addresses to the Throne were solemnly made, and, in return to which, his Majesty had the Goodness to declare, *he would use his best Endeavours to answer the Desires and Expectations of his People.*

Recollect, that, in order thereto, the much lamented Admiral *Hosier* was station'd at the *Bastimentos*, with a formidable Fleet, to retard the Return of the Galleons, till the Enemy was brought to Reason:

Reason: In which Service he, together with a gallant Train of Officers, and Thousands of Seamen died: Died, Gentlemen, not as we may have the Honour to do, in Action; but a Prey to the worst of Climates; and, in their last Moments, lamenting, not the Loss of their Lives, But that they were not permitted to share in the Glory of having avenged their Country.

Recollect the Treaty of *Seville*, Gentlemen, in which we not only condescended to cancel the Remembrance of past Injuries; but to render the naval Force of *Great-Britain*, instrumental to the aggrandizing a Branch of the House of *Bourbon*, at the Expence of our most ancient and most natural Ally. Recollect that we fulfill'd every Article of this Treaty, with a Punctuality almost beyond Example. One of the bravest and most considerable of our Admirals, was order'd to convoy *Don Carlos* and his Troops to *Italy*; and that he is now a King, is owing to

that very Power, which his Parents so long insulted with Impunity.

Recollect, Gentlemen, that this great, this important Service was scarce perform'd, but they evaded every Article of the said memorable Treaty, which lean'd in our Favour; and not only baffled our Commissaries for three Years together; but let loose their *Guarda Costas* in these Seas again; renew'd their Depredations, and amus'd us with Promises of Redress only, which, 'tis now apparent, they never intended to make good.

Recollect, Gentlemen, that the Cry of the Sufferers was again preferr'd to the Legislature on this provoking Occasion: and by them again echo'd to the Throne: The whole Nation at once joining in the Petition, and urging the instant Necessity of rousing the Power of *Great-Britain* to defend her Trade, and retrieve her Glory.

Recollect

Recollect, Gentlemen, how unwilling we have been to come to a Rupture; what an Infinity of Couriers pass'd between the two Courts, how often the Modes of Negotiation were changed; what Numbers of Expedients were offered; and what an insignificant Sum we at last compounded to admit as full Satisfaction for all the Losses we had sustain'd, and all the Wrongs we had received.

Notwithstanding all which, Gentlemen, so infatuated were they with the Belief, that we durst not quarrel with them; or so certain were they of being supported through all Extremities, that they even rejected the *Convention* too, and treated us with a Scorn and Contempt, which has no Precedent in the whole *British* Story.

During this whole melancholy Interval, Gentlemen, my Heart burnt within me. When I spoke, it was in such Terms as the
 Delicacy

Delicacy of the Age could not bear: I was represented rough as the Element I was bred to ; and even the Truths I utter'd from the fulness of my Heart, were looked upon as little better than the Ravings of a Calenture.—I then retir'd from an odious Scene, that I could neither endure or amend ; and half trembled to look beyond the Bounds of my own little Estate ; my principal Comfort being to recollect, that I was no ways accessory to the Ruin, nor had any Share in the Spoils of my Country.—

In this Situation, Gentlemen, when the Clamours without Doors, grew too vehement to be stifled any longer, by the Artifices so long made use of within, his M----y's Commands found me ; which I received with proper Acknowledgment, and resolved to fulfil or die.----To fulfil without reserve.----Not as a Courtier who aim'd but to please his Patron, but as an *old-Englishman*, dependant only on God, his King, and his Country.

With

With this View, Gentlemen, I sail'd, with such Forces as I could get (I wish they had been such as the Service required) impatient, I must own, to let loose that Thunder, which had been so long withheld.—A War was resolved on, which has already been prov'd both just and unavoidable. Hostilities had been long commenc'd by one side, and it was high time to make Reprisals on the other. —I have been told that my Undertakings since have been censured as rash by some, and undervalued as inconsiderable by others——Let them speak for themselves.——This, however, give me leave to say, Gentlemen, had I been favoured with a more effectual Force, the War, perhaps, had been ended before now; and I might have appear'd before my Accusers Face to Face: Nor is this a Sacrifice to Vanity, but Truth.——The Enemy expected no such Visitor, and were, in a manner, unprovided for a Defence. My little Squadron, such as it was,

was, struck a Terror thro' the *American* Seas, interrupted the *Spanish* Commerce, and cover'd our own.—Oh! Gentlemen, what an Opportunity was then lost? And what dreadful Advantages might have been taken of our Delays! Instead of being instantly join'd, as I had Reason to expect, with a large Reinforcement, I languish'd long in a vain Expectation; and had the Curse, at last, to see the Enemy's Squadrons arrive, supported by a formidable Second.—See, did I say? No, I was not in a Condition to endure the Sight, but was forc'd to resign the Sovereignty of the Seas, I had hitherto preserv'd, to these new Comers, and study a new part, the Defensive; with the sole Ambition of disputing my Ground rather more obstinately, than the Enemy had done before me.—

But to reflect no longer of what is pass'd, thanks to his M——y, I am now reforc'd, and rejoice to find my self in a Condition, of accepting of Don *Blas's* Invitation

Invitation to make him a Visit at *Cartagena*.—I see he has taken Advantage of our Remissness, to make all imaginable Preparations to give us a hearty Welcome, and it must be our Business to behave accordingly.—The Affair at *Porto Bello* has been called a Surprize: The Governor there has been accus'd of Cowardice; and more has been said of our good Luck on that Occasion, than either our Conduct or Courage.—Here the Case is different; our Arrival has been long expected; the Enemy has had Leisure to make what Dispositions they please; Don *Blas*, without doubt, is a gallant Man, and we must expect to earn dearly the Laurels we wish to wear.

I would not be thought insensible of Dangers; but, I hope, we all esteem such as threaten our Country, to be the greatest that can befall our selves; and that in what concerns her Interest, Grandeur, or Glory, we shall dread nothing so much, as a just Reproach of not
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having run all Hazards, to render them everlastingly secure. — The *French*, Gentlemen, the *French* are our most dangerous and most inveterate Enemies: I cannot look upon their Settlements in these Seas, without Apprehensions that I heartily wish were groundless. I cannot reflect on their Solitude to encourage their Manufactures and extend their Commerce, without the most sensible Uneasiness. And when I hear their Fleets are commission'd to appear in the Cause of our Enemies, and presume to keep their Colours flying in Sight of the *British* Flag, I can hardly contain my Relentment. I think it is high time to put the Sovereignty of the Seas out of Dispute; and apply our whole Force to prevent its being any more precarious for the time to come. — The Riches of the Universe in *Spanish* Hands, is not half so much to be apprehended, as Trade in those of the *French*; and, if they were disarm'd at Sea, that Trade would be at our Mercy. Had, therefore, their Squadrons

drons in those Seas, been Parties in the War ; had they undertook to cover and protect the Port before us, we should have had the Glory of attempting, and, I hope, performing the truest Service that can be done our Country.—But the Opportunity is lost.—Forms are to be observed even with declared Enemies.—I sent them Notice, therefore, of our Designs, that they might proceed as they thought proper ; and they have disappointed me by deserting their Favourite Ally, when only their Assistance could be of Service.

But, Gentlemen, tho' we have no Fleets to engage, we have Fortifications to storm ; such as, if well defended, will render all our Spirit and Resolution necessary, if we hope to be victorious. Remember, however, that Difficulty is the Test of Valour ; and those are seldom repuls'd, who are determin'd to conquer. Be brave then, I ask no more : Justice, not Fortune, will govern the rest.

There is not one among you, who has not a Character to establish, or one to lose ; for your own sakes then, you are oblig'd to act gallantly ; and if I have any Merit to plead, in having studiously prevented all your Wants ; in having procur'd you all the Supplies and all the Refreshments in my power ; in having watched over your Healths ; and done my utmost to ward off the Dangers and Mischiefs of a Climate so different from your own, let me, on this great Occasion, receive your Acknowledgments.

We have a Royal Master, who is not only valiant in his own Person, but sensible of the Valour of his Subjects : imagine you fight under his Eye, that he leads you, and that he will suffer no eminent Service to pass unrewarded.

I hope I have already convinced you, that I am directed by no Prejudice or Bias whatever : That whoever does his
Duty,

Duty, receives my Approbation; whoever distinguishes himself, is sure of my Favour; and that Power never relishes so sweetly, as when it enables me to give Merit its due Reward.

Gentlemen, the Vengeance of your Country is in your Hands; the Vengeance of a great People long insulted, long entangled in the Net-work of Treaties and Negotiations, and struggling in vain to let loose the Sword. The Sword is now loose; all the Indignities we have hitherto suffer'd, are now to be retaliated; all the Damages we have sustain'd, are now to be made good; all the Honour we have lost, is now to be restor'd. Restor'd, did I say? Yes; but with large Additions, that the proudest of our Neighbours may not presume, for the future, to conclude, that even the Rust of a corroding Peace can eat away our Virtue.

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The Treasure, the Arms, the whole Power of *Great-Britain* have formerly been employ'd for the Interest of others, but are at last to be exerted for her own. Yes, Gentlemen, we are now to fight for ourselves; and not only the Honour of our Victories, but the Benefit will be ours. It is, therefore, more immediately incumbent on us to improve this long wish'd for Opportunity to the utmost; that not only the present Bravery of a few, but the future Industry of our whole Nation, may be rewarded with the Wealth of those who have nothing else to boast of.

This, Gentlemen, is the great Point we should have in view, not merely Honour, not merely Revenge; and if this great Point should be accomplish'd by us, our Names will be dear to all future Ages.

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In the Wars before mentioned, when from Auxiliaries we became Principals, the Land Forces were first consider'd, first provided for, and carried off the first Honours of the Triumph: We of the Marine, were little better than an occasional Supplement, sometimes employed and paid, and sometimes not, at the good Pleasure of our Superiors in Place and Power: Hence the Nobility and Gentry crouded into that Service, and avoided ours: Hence, likewise, at Court they met with the best Reception, were distinguished with the highest Honours; and were admitted to a larger Portion of the Royal Favour; while we were kept at an awful Distance, rarely noticed, and hardly ever distinguished; tho' the natural Strength, and most effectual Guards of an Island, depending upon Trade, and which had Property to be defended all over the Globe. This, I say, Gentlemen, was and will be the Case in Land-Wars: But now the Balance rather
turns

turns in our Favour ; we are no longer Seconds, but Principals ; we have already given some Proofs of what we are capable of ashore, as well as at Sea ; and establish'd such a Reputation all over *Europe*, as nothing but a Behaviour quite the reverse, which, I am sure, you are not capable of, can ever destroy.

The Troops we have now on board, are to be Witnesses of your Behaviour ; 'tis you are to lead the Way in this noble Attempt ; and I question not, but that you will, as usual, exceed their Expectations, and give them Cause to admire, what they can scarce hope to equal.

I do not say this Gentlemen, to create Animosity, but to excite Emulation ; you are all Fellow-Subjects, embark'd in the same Cause, and will share alike in the Success : I am 'tis true, more closely allied to you ; and therefore more solicitous that you should not follow, but set the Example.

I need not tell you, that the Hearts of the Publick are with us; that they wait impatiently to hear what Progress we make in the common Cause, and that they almost weary Heaven, with Prayers for our Success. Many of you have seen and heard, what I only know by report.—I need not tell you, that this is the People's War, begun at their instance, and that they will think no Tax grievous, no Expence exorbitant, that appears necessary for carrying on their darling Schemes of humbling a proud, untractable Enemy.—I need not tell you, that this People, however misrepresented, as fickle, wavering, and ungrateful, are the most sensible of Services of any under the Sun: There is no End of their Acknowledgments, or Limit to their Bounty. That they adopt your very Passions, and consider all Men either as Friends or Enemies, as they are Friends or Enemies to you. These are Truths beyond Controversy: And,

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in return, we are not only to proceed undauntedly, but expeditiously. Scarce any Success will atone for a long War: For, what a Nation gains on one hand, it loses on the other; and while Glory is at the full, Commerce is in the wane.—As, therefore, it is not in our power to patch up a crude, indigested Peace, so neither let us be answerable for the Guilt of a lazy ineffectual War. What depends on us, let us perform while we may; Backwardness and Neglect, let Politicians answer for.

Remember you have the good Fortune to command one of the bravest Classes of Men, such as do not know what Fear is; who will perform that in Sport, which scarce any Reward would induce others to attempt.—On the one hand then, don't let it be said, that they were more ready to follow, than you to lead; nor, on the other, let their Rashness be their Ruin.

In

In one Word, neither fear, nor despise the Enemy. There is not much Reason to believe they are brave, but 'tis possible they may be desperate; and such become dreadful then, who were before contemptible.

As soon as you are aboard your respective Ships, I shall give the Signal; when God prosper the Arms of *Great-Britain*.

F I N I S.



In one Word, neither fear, nor despise
the Enemy. There is not much Reason
to believe they are brave, but 'tis possible
they may be cowardly and such become
dreadful when they are before con-
templable.



As soon as you are aboard your vessel
give Signal, I shall give the Signal; when
God prosper the Arms of Great-Britain.

W. I. M. I. S.

